Bible & Daily Living

Naaman's cure

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
NAAMAN: A Reluctant Patient
Lesson for July 24, 1983
Bible Study Passage: II Kings 5:1-5, 9-19

INTRODUCTION

We humans are more prone to give advice than to take it. This may be especially true when it comes to matters of health and sickness. The Surgeon General may warn us that smoking can be hazardous to our health, but that doesn't mean we are going to heed his warning.

Our physician may prescribe a certain medication, diet, exercise or surgery, but we are free to choose not to head his or her prescription. We do not always follow the doctor's orders!

The pastor may advise us against certain destructive life styles and sinful behavior, but we do not necessarily pay attention to the preacher's message.

We are bombarded daily with advice and warnings. Some of the advice and warnings we receive are valuable while others are not. We must weigh the advice to see if it fits our need at the moment. We must also decide if the person giving us advice has our best interest at heart. Not all physicians, pastors, family, and friends offer advice out of purely unselfish motives. And sometmes we seek advice because we are reluctant to make choices for ourselves. This week's lesson looks at Naaman the leper. He was a "mighty man of valor, but he was a leper." Naaman was advised to go see the prophet Elisha for healing. MIGHTY BUT AFFLICTED (II Kings 5:1b)

In ancient times, leprosy was regarded as a dreaded disease, much the same as cancer is in our time. Leprosy manifested itself in mild, moderate, and severe cases. Chronic leprosy lasted a lifetime and would often cause some people to lose a foot or hand. It seems that Naaman had a mild or moderate form of leprosy for he remained functional and involved in society. Those lepers whose disease was more severe were normally colonized and cut off from family and society. A little girl taken captive during a battle between Isreal and Syria worked in the house where Naaman lived. She advised Naaman to go to see the prophet Elisha for healing. A TIP, TRIP, AND A DIP (II Kings 5:9-14)

Upon the tip of the young captive maiden, Naaman went to Elisha bearing gifts from the Syrian king for the expected miracle of healing. Naaman was greatly surprised when Elisha simply told him to go dip seven times in the muddy Jordan River. He was angered by the seeming lack of attention Elisha gave him. Naaman was expecting a little more fanfare than the mere advice to go take a dip.

We are like Naaman at times, especially when we make a visit to our physician's office. We may become angry with the doctor if he or she does not send us away with a handful of prescriptions. We may think we have not been properly treated without medicine. If the doctor only recommends rest, diet, exercise, or deletion of tobacco and alcohol, we may feel he or she has not fulfilled their responsibility to us. Naaman finally went to the Jordan after his servants intervened. Naaman learned that trust and obedience were more powerful than the waters of any river.

A GRATEFUL PILGRIM (II Kings 5:15-19)

Naaman soon recognized the source of healing in the God whom Elisha served. Following his healing, Naaman brings gifts to pay for the gift of healing. Elisha refused to accept the gifts because he knew all credit for healing belonged to God.

Have you ever noticed the human tendency to want to pay for a gift? Sometimes we make it difficult for someone to give us a gift. But a gift is a gift, pure and simple. We don't pay for gifts.

Naaman received the gift of a miracle of healing. The end result of this miracle was Naaman's acceptance of the God of Israel. Trust and obedience to God can help bring about healing of our spiritual, emotional, and physical brokenness.

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Dr. Carl A. Collins, Jr.

Revival slated at Hollywood

Revival services will be held at Hollywood Baptist Church July 24-29, starting at 7:30 each night. Dr. Carl A. Collins, Jr. of Daleville, Va. will be the guest speaker. Dr. Collins is married to the former Mildred Conner of Christiansburg. They have two sons, Carlton Douglas and Dwight Curtis.

Dr. Collins served as pastor of Evergreen, Rocks, Central, Hollywood and Liberty Churches in Appomattox County. He left the Evergreen field of churches to enter the chaplaincy in World War II. Dr. Collins served as Moderator of The Lynchburg Baptist Association for two terms and is now completing his second team as moderator of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.

Last year he went to Indonesia for the Foreign Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. This fall he and Mrs. Collins will take a team to the Island of Hokkoido in Northern Japan.

Dr. Collins will soon be beginning his fifth year as Interim pastor of the Catawba Valley Baptist Church.

We give each one a cordial welcome to come worship with us each night of the revival at Hollywood Church.

Church revival set

Chestnut Grove Baptist Church will celebrate its 160th anniversary Sunday, July 24, with homecoming services and revival beginning.

Services will begin Sunday, July 24, at 11 a.m. with lunch following. The Rev. William H. Voorhes, a former pastor, will be the guest minister. Services will begin Sunday evening at 8 p.m. and continue each evening through Friday, July 29.

Mr. Voorhes was born in Washington, Pa., and has traveled widely around the United States. He was raised as a Roman Catholic. Mr. Voorhes has always been religiously inclined, but did not surrender his life to Christ until age 25, when he had a dramatic encounter with God.

His educational background includes public schools in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Colorado. In 1967 Mr. Voorhes received a B.A. degree from the University of Richmond, majoring in Bible and Religion with minors in English and Psychology. He was awarded the Master of Divinity degree, with Language by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. in May 1973.

The first "congregation" he felt was his was a group of 27 deaf mutes for whom he served as Sunday school teacher and interpreter. He has held pastorates since 1964 in Virginia and North Carolina. He is now pastor of Temple Baptist Church, New Bern, N.C.

As a ventroloquist, his gift is used for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Mr. V", as many of the children call him, and a cast of several puppets, but Joey Masonboro is his most constant traveling companion. Together they have appeared at college campuses, high school athletic banquets, various schools, both public and private. "Joey" serves as children's evangelist during revivals led by Mr. Voorhes.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Mr. Voorhes is currently serving on North Carolina State Batpist Convention's task force for work with mentally retarded persons, and a growth consultant for the convention's department of church training.

A family man himself, Mr. Voorhes is vitally interested in family enrichment. To this end he has developed and led in Family Life Conferences and Marriage Enrichment Seminars. His wife of 25 years is the former Barbara Ann Ravert of Chester, New York. They have a daughter, Mrs. James Granford (Cyndee) of Union, South Carolina and two sons at home, Tony and John. He has one granddaughter, Courtney Broobe Cranford.

The pastor, the Rev. John Edward Mann, Sr., extends a cordial invitation to everyone who can come and attend these services. There will be special singing each evening.

Obituaries

Wilson R. (Willie) Ferguson

Wilson R. (Willie) Ferguson, 70, Route 2, died at noon Friday, July 15, in Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Eula Ayers Ferguson.

Born in Appomattox, he was a son of the late John Marshall Ferguson and Leola Smith Ferguson. He was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Lynchburg and was a retired farmer.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, Clyde (Tom Dooley) Ferguson, Appomattox; six daughters, Mrs. Floyd (Joyce) McCormick, Gladstone, Mrs. Lawrence (Sarah) Woody, Mrs. Clyde (Rena) Litchford, Mrs. Roy (Verna) Wood, Mrs. Nita Harris, and Mrs. Thomas (Pete) Hensley, all of Appomattox; two brothers, Norman L. Ferguson, Spout Spring, and Roy H. Ferguson, of Roanoke; two sisters, Mrs. Ann Woody and Mrs. Mae Williamson, both of Appomattox; 23 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Robinson Funeral Home by the Rev. Richard B. Baber. Burial was in Liberty Cemetery.

Walter E. Mays

ROANOKE - Walter L. Mays, 69, of Estate Road SE died Sunday.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Whitehead Mays; two daughters, Mrs. Brenda M. Aliff of Salem and Mrs. Teresa M. Richmond of Rocky Mount; two brothers, Clarence J. Mays and Gilbert E. Mays, both of Appomattox; a sister, Mrs. Lena Pollard of New Jersey, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 1 p.m. from Lotz Roanoke Chapel with the Rev. Don McCaskill officiating. Graveside services were held in Liberty Baptist cemetery at 4 p.m.

Eleanor Davidson Roach

Eleanor Davidson Roach, 68, of Route 5, Bedford, died July 13, 1983 in Virginia Baptist Hospital, after a long illness. She was the wife of Curtis T. Roach.

She was born in Appomattox County, a daughter of the late Jesse Osborne and Annie Thornhill Davidson. She was a graduate of James Madison University, a retired school teacher from the Buckingham County school system, a member of the American Association of University Women, and an elder in the Laurel Grove Presbyterian Church in Bedford County.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Crawford T. Roach, Bedford; a daughter, Mrs. William Wassink, Camden, N.C.; four grandchildren; one brother, Thomas Osborne Davis II, Appomattox; five sisters, Mrs. Katherine D. Judy, Daleville, Mrs. Elizabeth D. Harrison, Appomattox, Mrs. Mary D. Barrell, Etlan, Mrs. Annie D. Matthews, Orange, and Mrs. Lilly Bibb Haley, Roanoke, and an uncle, J. Crawford Davidson, Appomattox.

Memorial services were conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, July 15, 1983 from Hebron Baptist Church in Appomattox County.

Mt. Comfort plans revival

Revival services will be conducted at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church in Appomattox from July 31 through Aug. 5, at 8 p.m. each evening.

Guest speaker for the revival will be the Rev. F.J. Wingfield, Jr.

The church's pastor, the Rev. David B. Camden, and the congregation invite the public to attend these revival services.

Homecoming planned

Homecoming at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church will be held this Sunday. Lunch will be included in the schedule of events.

The Men's Club will sponsor a program the fifth Sunday this month about the Ten Commandments. Come out and let's support our men.

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